

The Coalition

Advocacy Coalition for People with Disabilities

JAN 12 DEADLINE TO SIGN UP FOR NEW FUNDING FOR THERAPIES FOR CHILDREN UNDER AGE 11 WITH PDD

ACT NOW !!

During the 2006 session of the South Carolina General Assembly, a group of parent advocates lobbied for new legislation that would require insurance companies to provide coverage for the treatment of any Pervasive Developmental Disorder. The insurance companies opposed this citing concerns with increased premiums and co-pays in addition to other costs. As a compromise to both help families and hold insurance companies harmless, \$3 million in new non-recurring funds was appropriated to the Department of Disabilities and Special Needs. These one-time funds came with specific instructions to the agency, regarding the new pilot program to provide therapies to children ages 3 through 10 who have been diagnosed by age 8 with a Pervasive Developmental Disorder (PDD). Children participating in the pilot project will be selected based upon an application process.

If you are interested in participating

And your child is currently in the DDSN system **And**

1. has been diagnosed with a PDD (including autistic disorder) before the age of 8 years old, **And**

2. is currently between 3 and 10 years old - Contact your DDSN Service Coordinator or Early Interventionist to apply for this pilot project. They will help you complete the necessary paperwork to submit an application

If your child is not currently in the DDSN system, **And**

1. has been diagnosed by age 8

years old with one of the following: Pervasive Developmental Disorder, not otherwise specified (PDDNOS), Autistic Disorder (i.e., Autism), Asperger's Syndrome, Childhood Disintegrative Disorder or Rett's Syndrome **And**
2. is currently between the ages of 3 through 10 years

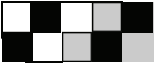
Call 1-888-576-4658 on or after December 27, 2006. This is DDSN's Information and Referral toll free number for this new PDD pilot program. An answering machine will take your call and ask you to leave some very basic information about your child, including your contact number and your child's name and date of birth. An Information and Referral Specialist will call you back within 48 hours and ask you the following questions. Please be prepared to give this information as best you can to avoid delays.

Continued on Page 5

Save the Date!
May 19, 2007
The Citadel
 Annual Conference on Disabilities
"Support for Ourselves"

Plan now to attend this annual event. Sessions will include IDEA 04 Update, SC BabyNet, and a special Project SAGE keynote on self-advocacy. Call the Family Resource Center at 266-1318 to register.

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DO YOU KNOW ABOUT ??

Ability Online

Do you have a special needs family member who likes the internet? Worried that he/she may run into a less than savory chat room? Check out Ability Online.

Ability Online is a free Internet community where young people with disabilities and illnesses can meet and chat with other people like them in a virtual world that transcends boundaries and barriers. They can make friends, get tips from mentors, participate in chat groups and play games and activities. It is monitored 24 hours per day by responsible volunteers to discourage boasting, bullying, and other undesirable online behaviors.

Ability Online even has online tutors who provide homework help to students in grades four through twelve.

Ability Online is open to anyone interested and although it attracts a lot of young people with disabilities and illnesses, the whole point is to have an integrated community, proving the point that there are no disabilities online. To join, register with Ability Online using your real name and a password. New members complete an online registration form, and are then sent a private activation code. The information provided is kept confidential and secure.

Ability Online can be accessed from any computer connected to the Internet. Once your membership is activated, you can jump online and exchange public or private messages on a whole range of topics ranging from medical mysteries to dream jobs to animal stories.

In addition there are also specialized topic threads for parents, caregivers and other professionals looking for help, feedback or just the mutual support and understanding that isn't always easy to find when you're out there on your own. The entire approach is based on a holistic model of support.

Research conducted by The Hospital for Sick Children (Toronto) and the University of Alberta (Edmonton) using Ability Online's communication facilities has shown that online support can extend the positive benefits of traditional off-line support groups and reduce feelings of loneliness and isolation. For more information see information@ablelink.org.



At the Local Level

Charleston, Dorchester, and Berkeley Counties all have their own Special Olympic programs.

Dorchester County has Bocce, Roller-skating, Aquatics, Basketball, Masters Bowling (Over 21), Under 21 bowling and Athletics (track and Field). They also have a unique running program to train athletes to run a 5k (3.1 miles) in a fundraiser run that takes place each year in Hilton Head Island on December 16th.

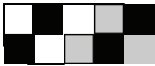
Charleston County has 21 of 22 Special Olympics sports in various areas. The only sport they don't have is Equestrian.

Berkeley County has Bowling and Athletics (track and Field) through the schools. They need help to run more programs.

Charleston and Berkeley Counties are currently in need of a county coordinator. To volunteer in any capacity contact Angela Klick at 843-852-9275.

See Page 4 for more information on Special Olympic Young Athletes Program.

**The Family Resource Center
"Resource Directory"
Is full of useful information including agency/organization/legislative contact numbers and relevant web-sites - AND - it's available On-Line at:
www.frcdsn.org**



UPCOMING WORKSHOPS AND TRAININGS

The Parent Training and Resource Center offers workshops free of charge throughout the year. Workshops will be conducted at the Family Resource Center office, 1575 Savannah Hwy, Ste. 6, Charleston, at Healthfinders in Northwoods Mall, and other locations in the tri-county area. Please call 266-1318 to register and to confirm the time & location of the session you wish to attend. Workshops will be held from 6:30 To 8:30 and from 10:00AM-12:00PM. Workshops scheduled:

Youth with Disabilities & the Juvenile Justice System: Feb. 15 from 10:00AM - 12:00PM

Building Programs for Youth with Disabilities: Feb. 22 from 6:30-8:30PM & again on Feb.23 from 10:00AM-12:00PM

Solving the Employment Puzzle for Youth with Disabilities: March 1st from 6:30-8:30 PM & again on March 2nd from 10:00AM-12:00 PM

Disability Legislation, How Does It Affect Employment: March 8 from 6:30-8:30 & again on March 9 from 10:00-12:00

Assistive Technology Resources April 5 from 6:30-8:30

To register, to receive info on future workshops, or to schedule a workshop for your group or organization contact Susan at 843-266-1318. In addition to those listed above, workshops are available on such topics as: Parents Roles, Rights & Responsibilities; IEPs; No Child Left Behind; ADD/ADHD; ADA and Employment; Reasonable Accommodations; Bullying; Early Intervention; and Family-School Partnerships. Other topics may be available. Workshop training curricula has been approved by the US Department of Education.

Asperger Syndrome & Autism: Understanding the Hidden Curriculum

February 7, 2007

9:00AM-4:00PM

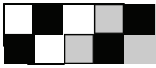
Columbia Conference Center

The South Carolina Autism Society will host this workshop by Dr. Brenda Smith Myles, the author of many books on autism and Asperger syndrome. Dr. Myles wrote "Children and Youth With Asperger Syndrome: Strategies for success in inclusive settings," and co-authored "Asperger Syndrome and Difficult Moments: Practical Solutions for Tantrums, Rage and Meltdowns" as well as "The Hidden Curriculum: Practical Solutions for Understanding Unstated Rules in Social Situations." Dr. Myles is Chief of Programs and Development at the OHIO Center for Autism and Low Incidence Disabilities.

Cost of the workshop is \$85.00 and includes lunch. For more information contact the SC Autism Society at www.scautism.org or at 1-800-438-4790.

Picture Exchange Communication System

Pyramid Educational Products will conduct their two day PECS (Picture Exchange Communication System) workshop in Columbia on March 1st and 2nd, 2007. PECS is an inexpensive and easy augmentive communication system for children and adults with communication difficulties. For more information on cost and location contact www.pyramidproducts.com or call 1-888-732-7462



A New Way to Think About Planning for the Future

Do you wonder what your child will do and where he or she will live as an adult? Do you worry who will care for him/her and how necessary support will be provided? The answer might be a Self Directed Support Corporation. A Self Directed Support Corporation is a non-profit organization composed of people who know and care about a person with a disability. It is established to assist that person with planning and obtaining needed supports. Since it is a non profit organization, according to SC law, it must have a microboard comprised of at least a president, a secretary and a treasurer. One person may hold more than one office at the same time. As such, a very small group of people can become a non-profit organization dedicated to the support and care of an individual with a disability. Certain requirements apply since the group must develop policies, procedures, operational and fiscal mechanisms and develop accounting procedures and determine who will be responsible for implementing them. The board can hire staff or providers or a combination of both. Microboards have been formed in other states very successfully and are new to South Carolina but information and help in establishing one is available. For additional information contact the SC Autism Society, the SC Department of Disabilities and Special Needs or check out the following websites:

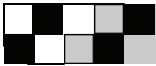
- The Vela Microboard association at <http://www.microboard.org>
- Center for Self Determination at <http://www.self-determination.com> <http://www.communityworks.info/index.htm>
- The United Cerebral Palsy's site <http://www.ucp.org/ucp>,
- The US Department of Education Research Projects at <http://www.nichcy.org/directories/1volume2006.pdf#search=%22southern%20microboard>
- National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities at <http://www.nacdd.org>

Young Athletes Program

The Special Olympics South Carolina Young Athletes Program is for children ages 3-7, with mild or moderate intellectual disabilities and with some to average physical mobility. A Young Athletes Coordinator will lead the children in individual activities and group play sessions utilizing skills they will use in the home, school and community.

The overall goal of the Young Athletes Program is to provide a setting in which young children with intellectual disabilities can experience the physical, social and emotional benefits of play, while preparing for future sports participation by learning about physical fitness, team play and following rules. The activities can be conducted in a wide variety of locations.

The Special Olympics South Carolina Young Athletes Program is for children ages 3-7, with mild or moderate intellectual disabilities and with some to average physical mobility. A Young Athletes Coordinator will lead the children in individual activities and group play sessions utilizing skills they will use in the home, school and community. A Play Activities Program consists of a 6 week program. At the end of the six weeks the children, family and friends join in the fun along with recognizing the children for their participation in the program. Programs are offered at various times throughout the year. Young Athletes Programs may be implemented in schools, daycare centers, the home, local gym, or other community facility. All that is needed to conduct a Young Athletes Program are a Coordinator, volunteers, children and a facility to hold the program. Contact Angela Klick 843.852.9275



Therapies for Children with PDD

Continued from Page 1

1. Your child's age, date of birth and social security number;
2. The age your child was diagnosed with a PDD;
3. The name, address and telephone number of the professional practitioner who made the diagnosis of a PDD; and
4. Your child's current Medicaid status (eligible, in process of review, or denied).

If the Information and Referral Specialist needs additional information about your child, the Specialist will need about 30 minutes of your time to ask additional questions. This new program and new funds were not to replace or enhance pre-existing funding through BabyNet or through the public school programs. Those are to continue. The new DDSN initiative is not an entitlement program and is to be separate from BabyNet and education services. The three million dollars appropriated to the Department of Disabilities and Special Needs is for a Medicaid pilot project to treat children who have been diagnosed by eight years of age with a pervasive developmental disorder. According to the legislation The pilot project must target the youngest ages feasible for treatment effectiveness. Treatment for each individual child shall not exceed three years without a special exception as defined in the waiver, and reimbursement for each individual participant may not exceed \$50,000 per year. The Department of Disabilities and Special Needs and the Department of Health and Human Services will determine the areas of the State with the greatest need and availability of providers. Children participating in the pilot project will be selected based upon an application system developed in compliance with the Medicaid waiver.

Treatment will be provided as authorized and prescribed by the Department according to the degree of the developmental disability. In authorizing and prescribing treatment the Department may award grants or negotiate and contract with public or private entities to implement intervention programs for children who have been diagnosed with a pervasive developmental disorder.

"Pervasive Developmental Disorder" means a neurological condition, including Autistic Disorder and Asperger's Syndrome, as defined in the most recent edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders of the American Psychiatric Association.

The initial round of applications will be accepted from 8:30 A.M. Thursday, December 28, 2006 until 5:00 P.M. Friday, January 12, 2007.

On Wednesday, January 17, 2007, applications will be randomly selected one at a time and numbered in the order they are drawn. The first one drawn will be number one, the second one drawn will be number two. This process will continue until all of the applications received by 5:00 P.M. Friday, January 12, 2007 have a number. Applications received or postmarked after January 12, 2007, will be accepted and will be ordered on a first-come first-serve basis. The funding for this new Pilot Program is limited and likely will not be enough to serve all applicants. DDSN expects that about 140 to 150 children will be able to participate at this time. Once numbered, the applications will go through the next step of the process in numerical order. This is the ICF/MR level of care process and involves meeting additional requirements. DDSN will take as many initial applications as possible through the ICF/MR level of care determination until all slots are filled. The remaining applicants will go on a waiting list. **For additional information contact your local disability board or the SC Department of Disabilities and Special Needs at 1-888-376-4636 or online at www.state.sc.us/ddsn/index.**



Autism Training

SC Department of Disabilities and Special Needs/Autism Division conducts training throughout the year at various locations across the state. Training is open to anyone interested in learning more about autism and is beneficial for anyone working with individuals with Autism or any Pervasive Developmental Disorder. Some trainings include advanced content and competency prerequisites may apply to those sessions. The complete training calendar is available on line at: <http://www.state.sc.us/ddsn/autism/AutismTrainingBrochure2006-07.pdf> or call 843-852-4120 in the tri-county area. Sessions in the Charleston area are held at the SCDDSN/Autism Division, 1064 Gardner Rd., Fairfield Office Bldg., Suite 302. The following scheduled trainings require no prerequisite requirements and are **free**. Remember, registration is required and space is granted on a first come, first served basis. Class sizes are sometimes limited. **Call 852-4120 to receive more information (i.e.: time) and/or to register for the following:**

- Feb. 7 - Intro to Autism**
- Feb 21-23 - Basic Treatment Strategies**
- March 7 - Parent Training**
- April 4 - Parent Training**
- May 2 - Parent training**
- May 10-11 - Community based training**
- May 24-25 - Supporting adults with Autism**

<h2>PRO-Parent Training Workshops</h2>
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<p>January 22 - 6:00 - 8:00 PM Positive Behavior Interventions Charleston County Foster Parent Association - DSS Office, 3366 A Rivers Ave, N. Charleston</p> <p>February 15 - 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Positive Behavior Interventions & Section 504 Same location as Jan. 22 workshop</p> <p>For more information or to register contact Melinda Hawks at 1-866-863-1512</p>
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Update on Project SAGE

This fall, Project SAGE held two successful focus groups with middle and high students with disabilities. Summerville High School and Cario Middle School hosted discussions led by Susan Clark, Project SAGE consultant. In addition, teachers have been interviewed, and parent and student surveys have been disseminated.

We welcome ongoing input from teachers, parents, and students as we continue to strive to develop useful and meaningful curriculum for the targeted student population. A survey is posted on the Family Resource Center website or obtain one by calling the Family Resource Center. If you wish, call the office (266-1318) to complete the form over the phone.

Specialized training of select student groups will begin by Feb 07. Contact the FRC for additional information as to how you, your child, or your class can participate. This training is free. Beginning in Jan., we will be actively recruiting students in the tri-county who wish to receive this free training. Location sites for training will vary, with the intent of providing a site convenient for student participation.

If you have a special interest in improving student participation in their IEP meetings and/or their transition plans please consider helping with one or more of the Project SAGE activities. We are still in need of opinions/suggestions from educators and administrators.

If you'd like to participate in Project SAGE in *any* way, please contact Joyce at the Family Resource Center: 266-1318.



LOOK FOR SUPPORT FROM AMONG THESE AREA GROUPS:

Advocacy Coalition For People with Disabilities (ACPD) also Special Olympics contact Paula Byers 795-5316

Autism Support Groups: 1st Monday of each month at Locklear's in Mt. Pleasant at 6:30 PM. Contact Laurie Priester at 884-3062 for information. A group also meets the 3rd Thursday of each month in North Charleston at 6:30 PM. This group is presently taking a break for the summer but will begin with regular meetings again in August. The meetings will be at Carolina Children's Charities office at 6296 Rivers Ave. Suite 300. Contact Kelly Herrick at 863-1445 for information regarding the location of the next meeting or email at specialneedssupportsc@yahoo.com. In the Summerville area a group meets from 6:30-8 PM at the Summerville YMCA (900 Cross Creek Drive off Trolley Rd.) Childcare is provided For more information please contact Kima at 821-9337.

Trident Head Injury Support Group meets the 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:30, at the HASCI Center, St. Andrews Shopping Center, Savannah Hwy, Charleston. Contact Patricia Glenn at 875-5806.

HIPS (Head Injury Support Group for Survivors) meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month, at 7:30, at the HASCI Center, St. Andrews Shopping Center, Savannah Hwy, Charleston. Richard Aust, 852-5550)

Low country Polio Survivors Network will meet on Sept. 22 at Roper Hospital, Downtown, Conference Room 1 off the 1st Floor and on Oct. 27 at the Summerville Crestview Motor Park Club House. Both meetings begin at 3:00 PM. For directions or more info contact Patricia Buckner at 559-2728.

Down Syndrome Association of the Lowcountry sponsors 4 Information Programs and 4 Social Events each year - watch for details of approaching events. For more information call 762-7602.

Parent & Guardian Association of the Coastal Center holds general meetings four times a year. The meetings are held on the 3rd Sunday in January, April, July, & October, for more info call Barbara West at 821-5809.

Rett's Syndrome Support - for families needing a contact person to access support services for girls with Rett's Syndrome contact Nancy Banov at 556-4632

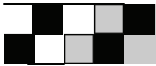
Stroke Support Group meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month from 6:00 - 7:00 PM at Roper Rehab Hospital, 8th Floor, E Elevator, Roper Hospital. Call Carla Boyette at 792-2829 for more information.

Tourette's Syndrome Support Group meets the 1st Sunday of each month, at 3:00 PM at Healthfinders, next to Belk in Citadel Mall. For more information contact Nannetta Navarro at 873-3233

Summerville Multiple Sclerosis Support Group meets the 4th Friday of each month from 11:00-12:30 at Scottie's Restaurant Meeting Room on 10050 Dorchester Road. For more information, contact Elizabeth Peterson (873-0818), epertson6@sc.rr.com

Heart to Heart—a support group for patients, family members and parents of individuals with congenital heart disease meets the first and third Thursday of each month from 3-4 PM in room 841 at the MUSC Children's Hospital. Various topics of interest are discussed at each meeting. Contact Robin Ellinger at 792-3179

The National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI) of the Charleston area offers support group meetings for individuals who suffer from a brain disorder and for family members and caregivers of those who have severe and persistent mental illness. The meetings are 6-7:15 p.m. the second Monday of every month at First Christian Church, 1293 Orange Grove Road, West Ashley and at Sunrise Christian Church 102 Myers Road, Summerville. Another location meets on the fourth Monday of each month at the Institute of Psychiatry, 67 President Street, 5th floor, North Tower classroom 526. Free parking is available for this group in Visitor Lot G and Doughty Street Garage. The support group sessions often are followed by an educational program. For more information Call NAMI at 727-6405 or visit www.namicharlestonarea.org.



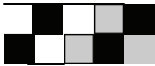
Self-Advocacy and Self-Determination Resources

These resources can be found in the Center for Disability Resources Library, School of Medicine, University of South Carolina <http://uscm.med.sc.edu/CDR/index.htm>. If a resident of South Carolina, materials can be mailed to your home or office. Postage paid return mailers are available for materials sent to families. Contact Steven Wilson, Librarian, at wilsons@gw.med.sc.edu with questions. Using SCarlit, on the library site, type in the call number for each resource listed below and request from wilsons@gw.med.sc.edu

Resource Title	Call Number
Empowerment: Employment Choices and Self-Advocacy: The key to your future	HF5381E551999
The New Jersey Self-Determination Process (video recording)	HV1553N5322003
Self-Determination and Empowerment: for persons with disabilities, a resource guide	HV1553S46561990
Brain Injury and Returning to Employment: a guide for practitioners	WL354J35b2005
How to find work that works for people with Asperger Syndrome: the ultimate guide for getting people with Asperger syndrome into the workplace (and keeping them there!)	HV1568.5H393h2004
Job search handbook for people with disabilities	HAV1568.5R988j2004
Personal Assistance in the Workplace: a customer-directed guide	HD7255P4672001
Natural Supports: a foundation for employment	HV3006T759n1996
It's My Choice	HV150A432i1999
Next STEP (Student Transition & Education Planning)	HD7256U5N56712001

Resources on the Web

Organization	Type of Resource	Website Address
Advocates in Action, Providence, RI	Power Point: What is Self-Advocacy?	www.aina-ri.org/aina_resources.html
Self-Advocacy Associates of New York State	Overview of the Self-Determination process	www.sanys.org/determination.htm
National Resource Center on Supported Living and Choice	Fact Sheets on Self-Advocacy	http://thechp.syr.edu/self-advocacy.pdf
SC Palmetto Association for Persons in Supported Employment (APSE)	Provides various links to employment resources for persons with disabilities from school to adult life.	http://www.palmettodcdt.org/supported%20employment.htm
Advocating Change Together	Provides various topics on Self-Advocacy and Self-Determination. Go online and request a <u>free</u> Self-Advocacy Quick Guide.	www.selfadvocacy.org
Center for Disability Resources Library	Disability websites for various organizations within South Carolina and Nationally.	http://uscm.med.sc.edu/CDR/disabilitywebsites.htm



Circle of Friends Community Choir

A community choir for individuals with developmental disabilities and peer helpers ages 8 and up has been formed at East Cooper Baptist Church. The choir is directed by Kim Embler and Palmetto Music Therapy Services and is staffed by three board certified music therapists. It meets Wednesday evenings from 4:00-5:00 with drop off time of 3:45.

The goals of the choir are to provide musical opportunities to build, strengthen, renew and express one's faith, as well as providing an environment that promotes success and feelings of self worth and opportunities for positive social interactions within the community.

If you know someone who might be interested or if you have any questions, contact Kim Embler at 727-1808 or email her at membler2@comcast.net. The choir is a community outreach through Healing Farm Ministries and East Cooper Baptist Church and is free of charge.

Support Groups *(Continued from Page 7)*

Special Needs Ministry-at Crowfield Baptist Church 100 Hunters Lane, Goose Creek offers Parent's Night Out for children with special needs and their siblings the third Friday of each month from 6-9PM. This ministry offers a structured program with a choice of activities including music, crafts, games, and movies. Advanced registration is required. Call the church at 569-6745x13 or visit the website at www.crowfieldbaptist.org.

The disAbility Resource Center support group meetings are the fourth Monday of each month from 5-7 at the disAbility Resource Center office 7944 Dorchester Road Suite 5, N. Charleston, SC 29418. Refreshments will be served and everyone is invited. Even if you don't feel you can give or need support come on out anyway!

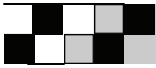
"No Limits" Events! 3rd Fridays of every even month (February, April, June) from 7:00-9:00PM Metro North Church. Open to Adults and Young Adults high school age and older with special needs. (No small children please.) First Timers and to confirm the next schedule (February 16, April 20, June 15) call 553-3405 and ask for Betty. Due to church functions some dates may be changed so call and confirm a few days in advance. Come have fun with friends, a live DJ and refreshments!

Please contact 266-1318 to make corrections or additions to this listing

CCSD Training Workshops for Parents

Jan. 16	Parent Support Meeting 75 Calhoun St.	Call Kay Ciganovic (937-6483) to confirm time
Jan. 26	Supporting Siblings of Children with Autism 75 Calhoun St. - Presented by Debbie Hanna	6:00-8:00 PM
Feb. 1	For ECD Parents: How to be an Active IEP Team Member Harborview ES, James Island - Presented by ECD Team	5:00 - 6:30 PM
Feb. 13	How Parents Can Participate in Transition Planning for Students with Disabilities 75 Calhoun St., Staff Development Room	6:00 - 8:00 PM
March 13	Understanding Inclusion 75 Calhoun St., Staff Development Room	6:00 - 8:00 PM

Please call 937-6500 to register; space is limited.



The Federal Regulations for IDEA '04 were published in the Aug. 14, 2006 edition of the Federal Register. The following is one of a series of Topic Briefs developed by the US Dept. of Education meant to clarify major changes from the previous authorization of IDEA. Please visit the US Dept. of Ed website devoted to IDEA '04 for current information. This Topic Brief is presented here as part of a continuing series. The Topic Brief on "Discipline" was covered in the Fall edition of The Coalition, which can be found on the FRC website: www.frcdsn.org

IDEA – Reauthorized Statute

SECONDARY TRANSITION

The reauthorized *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act* (IDEA) was signed into law on Dec. 3, 2004 by President George W. Bush. The provisions of the act became effective on July 1, 2005, with the exception of some of the elements pertaining to the definition of a "highly qualified teacher" that took effect upon the signing of the act. This is one in a series of documents, prepared by the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS) in the U.S. Department of Education, that covers a variety of high-interest topics and brings together the statutory language related to those topics to support constituents in preparing to implement the new requirements.¹ This document addresses only the changes to the IDEA provisions regarding secondary transition that took effect on July 1, 2005. It does not address any changes that may be made by the final regulations.

IDEA 2004:

1. Adds "further education" of children with disabilities to the IDEA's purposes.

The purpose of IDEA is to ensure that all children with disabilities have available to them a free appropriate public education (FAPE) that emphasizes special education and related services designed to meet their unique needs and prepare them for further education, employment and independent living. [601(d)(1)(A)]

2. Changes language from the term "transition services" now refers to a "child" instead of a "student."

The definition of "transition services" is changed to refer to a "child," rather than a "student," with a disability. [602(34)]

3. Changes the definition of "transition services."

The term "transition services" means a coordinated set of activities for a child with a disability that:

- Is designed to be within a results-oriented process, that is focused on improving the academic and functional achievement of the child with a disability to facilitate the child's movement from school to post-school activities, including postsecondary education; vocational education; integrated employment (including supported employment); continuing and adult education; adult services; independent living or community participation;
- Is based on the individual child's needs, taking into account the child's strengths, preferences, and interests; and
- Includes instruction, related services, community experiences, the development of employment and other post-school adult living objectives and, when appropriate, acquisition of daily living skills and functional vocational evaluation.

[602(34)]

4. Requires changes to performance goals and indicators.

The state has established goals for the performance of children with disabilities in the state that ... address graduation rates and dropout rates, as well as such other factors as the state may determine. [612(a)(15)(A)(iii)]

5. Exception to requirements for evaluation before a change in eligibility.



The evaluation described in Section 612(c)(5)(A) shall not be required before the termination of a child's eligibility under Part B due to graduation from secondary school with a regular diploma, or due to exceeding the age eligibility for FAPE under state law. [614(c)(5)(B)(i)]

For a child whose eligibility under Part B terminates under circumstances described above, an LEA shall provide the child with a summary of the child's academic achievement and functional performance, which shall include recommendations on how to assist the child in meeting the child's postsecondary goals. [614(c)(5)(B)(ii)]

6. Changes the secondary transition requirements in the individualized education program (IEP).

- Beginning not later than the first IEP to be in effect when the child is 16 and updated annually thereafter, the IEP must include:
 - o Appropriate measurable postsecondary goals based upon age-appropriate transition assessments related to training, education, employment and, where appropriate, independent living skills;
 - o The transition services (including courses of study) needed to assist the child in reaching those goals; and
 - o Beginning not later than one year before the child reaches the age of majority under state law, a statement that the child has been informed of the child's rights under IDEA, if any, that will transfer to the child on reaching the age of majority under Section 615(m).

[614(d)(1)(A)(VIII)]

7. Adds a rule of construction.

Nothing in Section 614 shall be construed to require (1) that additional information be included in a child's IEP beyond what is explicitly required in Section 614; and (2) the IEP team to include information under one component of a child's IEP that is already contained under another component of such IEP. [614(d)(1)(A)(ii)]

¹ *Topics in this series include: Alignment With the No Child Left Behind Act; Changes in Initial Evaluation and Reevaluation; Children Enrolled by Their Parents in Private Schools; Discipline; Disproportionality and Overidentification; Early Intervening Services; Highly Qualified Teachers; Individualized Education Program (IEP) Team Meetings and Changes to the IEP; Individualized Education Program (IEP); Local Funding; National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard (NIMAS); Part C Amendments in IDEA 2004; Part C Option: Age 3 to Kindergarten Age; Procedural Safeguards: Surrogates, Notice and Consent; Procedural Safeguards: Mediation and Resolution Sessions; Procedural Safeguards: Due Process Hearings; Secondary Transition; State Funding; and Statewide and Districtwide Assessments. Documents are available on the OSERS Web site at: www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osers/index.html.*

SAVE THIS DATE

March 1, 2007

**Disability Awareness Day
Columbia, SC**

Join others on this day to advocate on behalf of the needs of individuals with lifelong disabilities in South Carolina

Call Mary at 1-800-438-4790 ext. 105 for more information

SAVE THIS DATE

March 22-24. 2-007

**Partners Make a Great IDEA Shared Summit Sponsored by the State Department of Ed
Office of Exceptional Children
Columbia, SC**

More details will be available later this month; Call: 803-734-0460

The Twelve Commandments for Parents of Children with Disabilities

by Virginia Richardson
PACER Parent Training Coordinator

1. Thou art thy child's best and most consistent advocate.
2. Thou hast valuable information about your child. Professionals need your input.
3. Thou shalt put it in writing and keep a copy.
4. Thou shalt try to resolve problems at the lowest level but not hesitate to contact a higher authority if a problem is not resolved.
5. Thou shalt keep records.
6. Thou shalt seek out information when needed.
7. Thou shalt take time to think through information before making a decision.
8. Thou shalt have permission to be less than perfect. Important lessons are learned from both successes and failures.
9. Thou shalt not become a martyr. Decide to take a break now and then.
10. Thou shalt maintain a sense of humor. It is great for your emotional well being and that of your child.
11. Thou shalt always remember to tell people when they are doing a good job.
12. Thou shalt encourage thy child to make decisions because one day he or she will

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Special Needs
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